

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, HA, DR
SUBJECT: HAITIAN REACTION TO DOMINICAN ELECTIONS

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 2225, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 2414

1. IN ADDITION TO GOH JITTERS ABOUT MEDIA COVERAGE OF
DOMINICAN ELECTIONS (REPORTED REFTEL B) THERE ARE OTHER RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN HAITIAN-DOMINICAN RELATIONS WHICH ARE WORTHY OF
MENTION.

2. PRESIDENT'S BORDER VISIT. ON JUNE 9 PRESIDENT DUVALIER
MADE ANOTHER OF HIS INCREASINGLY FREQUENT PROGRESSES THROUGH
RURAL HAITI. THIS TIME THE CHOSEN LOCATION WAS THE
NORTHEAST AND, DURING THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO THE HAITIAN
FRONTIER TOWN OF OUANAMINTHE, THE PRESIDENT HAD A HIGHLY
PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH TWO DOMINICAN MILITARY OFFICERS FROM
THE NEIGHBORING TOWN OF DAJABON. THERE WERE TOASTS TO HAITIAN-
DOMINICAN FRIENDSHIP AND PRESIDENT DUVALIER ASKED THE SENIOR
OFFICER, COL. MARTIN DE LO SANTO, TO SEND HIS PERSONAL GREET-
INGS TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER.

3. MANY HAITIANS QUESTION THE PROPRIETY OF THE BORDER VISIT
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AT THIS TIME. THEY POINT TO THE PRESENT DELICATE SITUATION
IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND NOTE THAT BOTH THE DOMINICAN
ARMED FORCES AND THE DUVALIER GOVERNMENT STRONGLY FAVORED
THE RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER. THEY ALSO REPEAT THE
RUMOR THAT HAITIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPUTY ANDRE SIMON
(FROM THE SOUTHERN BORDER WITH THE DR) DELIVERED A LARGE SUM
OF MONEY FROM DUVALIER'S SECRET SERVICE CHIEF, LUC DESYR, TO

DOMINICAN GENERAL NEIT NIVAR IN A BORDER MEETING DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. INTERPRETATIONS OF THE VISIT VARY. SOME VIEW IT AS INNOCENT BUT INEPT. OTHERS BELIEVE IT WAS THE GOH'S WAY OF REASSURING BALAGUER AND HIS ARMY SUPPORTERS EITHER IMPLICITLY OR EXPLICITLY OF GOH SUPPORT.

4. GUZMAN'S LETTER. DESPITE THE CONFLICTING SPECULATIONS OVER THE PURPOSE OF THE BORDER VISIT, THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE OF THE GOH TOWARD THE PRD CONTINUES TO BE CORDIAL. THE GOVERNMENT DAILY PRINTED ON JUNE 13 GUZMAN'S REPLY TO JEAN CLAUDE DUVALIER'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE REPORTED REFTEL A. DATED JUNE 9, GUZMAN'S MESSAGE READS AS FOLLOWS: "I SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR CONGRATULATIONS ON MY ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. BE ASSURED THAT I WILL BEND ALL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE BEST POSSIBLE WELL-BEING FOR THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE AND TO STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONAL TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS."

5. GUZMAN'S HAITIAN CONNECTION. PRESIDENT-ELECT GUZMAN HAS A BROTHER-IN-LAW IN HAITI. GUZMAN'S WIFE'S SISTER IS MARRIED TO ARMAND KLANG, THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMME IL FAUT TOBACCO FACTORY. KLANG HOLDS FRENCH CITIZENSHIP BUT IS A LONG-TERM, IF NOT LIFE-LONG, RESIDENT OF HAITI. DUE TO THE NATURE OF HIS BUSINESS KLANG WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE INFLUENTIAL REGIE DU TABAC AND IS WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH THE HAITIAN POWER ELITE. FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS MENTIONED THE KLANG/GUZMAN CONNECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK SO IT WAS NO SUPRISE TO READ IN THE HAITIAN PRESS THE NEXT DAY THAT KLANG WAS VISITING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC "TO CONGRATULATE HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW PERSONALLY ON HIS RECENT VICTORY". WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT KLANG WAS ALSO ACTING AS AN UNOFFICIAL EMISSARY FOR THE GOH.

JONES

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